

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

It's Bloomin' Gold again!

St Ives In Bloom have gained their 7th Gold medal in a row in the annual Anglia In Bloom Awards, announced at The Carnegie theatre in Thetford, Norfolk. There was also a Best Pub Floral Display in the whole Anglia Region for Floods Tavern!

Within the town, specific areas are entered for different categories, and four were shortlisted this year:

The Waits (Local Authority Display), the Norris Museum garden (Garden for Inclusivity), Holt Island (Conservation Area) and the Allotments (Grow Your Own), which means they were among the top

four in the whole of the Anglia Region.

The Seven Wives pub and Floods Tavern both did us proud and received Anglia gold awards, with Floods Tavern receiving the award for Best Pub Floral Display in the whole Anglia Region!



Pictured left: Carole Parker, Phil Davies (Chair) and Kerry Maguire of SLIB present Floods Manager, Samantha Young (centre) with their award.

Meanwhile, at the Flower and Produce Show the previous week, St Ives in Bloom gave a fantastic six Gold



Above: Hattie Grimwade, Phil Davies and Carole Parker with their Gold certificate.

awards to allotment Plot 217 (Best Small Plot), Plot 47/48a (Best Large Plot) and Plots 240/41, 224/30, 137 and 206.

We are now awaiting the result of the Britain In Bloom Awards in November where St Ives is one of just 6 towns in the competition.

Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival starts...

At 6pm yesterday the 10th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival started in the newly refurbished Royal Oak in Crown Street with Max and Veronica (below) from Italy. Currently on tour of the UK they broke into their 21 concert schedule to open our Festival with their brilliant renditions of American classics. Meanwhile those wise people who had booked a meal at Amore enjoyed some cool tunes from Chris Newman and Art Toper. Also on during the evening were the very impressive 29th Funktion at Floods, Brooks Williams and Aaron Catlow at the Golden Lion and Festival favourite Dickie de Vere and his Dorchester Mavericks at The Nelson's Head.



A fine start for the Festival.

DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 12th - Sunday 15th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2024 continues with just 21 FREE concerts remaining!

Saturday 14th - Heritage Open Day.

Saturday 14th - RAFA charity band concert at the Free Church. Tickets £15 from ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert or the Free Church office.

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with GetNotGot - Contemporary jazz and funk. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Saturday 28th - Repair café - Methodist Church.

Saturday 28th - IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC - The Centre Theatre Players Burgess Hall of One Leisure starting at 7.30pm. Tickets for the show are £12 and can be obtained online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow.

OCTOBER

Friday 11th - Chapel Arts concert with Upwood Ukuleles - St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Bar.

Saturday 12th - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival - SOLD OUT

Saturday 12th - Illuminated Boat Parade - The Quay. A FREE event.

Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th - Michaelmas Fair - Town Centre.

Friday 18th - St Ives Age and Dementia Friendly Awareness Day - Together In Community to celebrate International Day of Older People, 10am to 2pm at the St Ives Corn Exchange.

Saturday 19th - Hunts Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair at Corn Exchange St Ives 10am-3pm. Free admission. Contact 01480 468037

Friday 25th - Chapel Arts concert with 4 Winds Sax Quartet - Four exceptional saxophonists. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Parade.

Saturday 16th - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Saturday 23rd - ArtsFEST - St Ives Corn Exchange 10 am to 4 pm.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts concert with Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel - Ragtime. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

DECEMBER

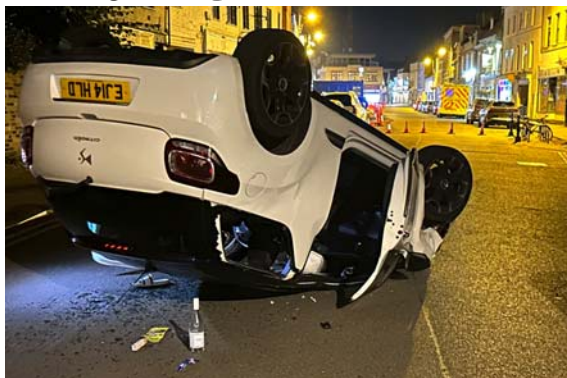
Saturday 14th - Santa Arrives at the Quay by boat

Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th - Santas Snow FESt St Ives Corn Exchange.

Another busy Friday night in St Ives

Just after our last edition The Broadway saw another accident. Amusing comments on social media included 'that'll buff out with a bit of T-Cut' and 'Nothing like cable ties and duck tape won't fix', but unfortunately two cars were damaged. The empty bottle of wine and the discarded flip flop may explain why a young woman was seen leaving the scene in tears. Fortunately an ambulance was already there (pictured) as someone, a little too worse for wear at Floods had fallen in the river.

But the question remains ... Just how did they do that?



Having been to a Gilbert & Sullivan concert the night before, the Editor couldn't get this line out of his head ...

The very models of a modern major general!



Following the Civic parade refreshments were provided in the Corn Exchange. Some of the dignitaries posed for photos! Left to right: The Mayor of Raunds, Cllr Paul Byrne; the Mayor of March, Cllr Gary Christy; St Ives Mayor Cllr Pasco Hussain; the Mayor of Huntingdon, Cllr Karl Brockett; the High Sheriff, David Way and the Mayor of Wisbech Cllr Sidney Imafidon.

See more pictures and details on page 2.

Parade rescued at last minute



This year's St Ives Civic Parade was rescued when the 42 Engineer Regiment (G0) were unable to attend at the last moment.

The Council were very grateful to SI Lee Thompson, from St Ives Detachment of the Cambs Army Cadet Force, who stepped in at the last minute to lead the Parade, in front of the Cambridgeshire ACF Corps of Drums. The Mayor of



St Ives, Cllr Pasco Hussain led the members of the Town Council in the Parade, accompanied by The Deputy Lieutenant Susan Freestone OBE, The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, David Way, and Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, Cambs CC Chair.

Mayors from the surrounding towns joined councillors in the Parish Church for a service led by Father Mark Amey. Also marching were the Royal British Legion, St Ives Army Cadets, 2331 (St Ives) ATC and St John Ambulance.

Do you have an item that needs fixing?

Bring it along to the next St Ives Repair café (our 6th) and help reduce waste, save money and learn new skills. The community at the St Ives Repair Café are committed to finding a solution to the 'buy and throw away' culture by offering a cheap sustainable alternative.

It isn't right that the consumption of resources continues to pollute in a way that affects us all. Bringing your broken items to the Repair Café has many benefits: you will help reduce landfill by extending the life of your item, you will save money, learn skills and become part of a growing community trying to end dependency on 'buying new'. If we cut pollution by just 10% every year we can reduce climate change before it is too late for our kids.

To book a repair slot please email: stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com



NO EMAIL? NO PROBLEM!

just leave a message on 07377 014401.

Pre-booking is recommended, but you can also bring items along on the day for advice and we will fit you in if we can. Repairs are free but donations are welcome.

The Repair Café takes place on 28th September from 1pm to 4pm at the Methodist Church on The Waits.

Cromwell commemorated

For the last 75 years the Cromwell Association has organised an annual service for the life of Oliver Cromwell. For years the service took place outside Parliament, but this year it was held in St Ives.

Held in the Free Church at 2.15pm on Saturday 7th September, it was followed by a wreath laying on the statue at 3.00pm.

St Ives is a town of great significance to Cromwell as it was here in the 1630s that his religious beliefs developed, after what would now be termed a conversion experience.

The town statue of Cromwell, shown in civilian clothes, rather than the military apparel of the Westminster statue, is the only one paid for by public subscription. Originally destined to be in Huntingdon the statue ended up in St Ives whose people raised the money for it.

Oliver Cromwell, rose to become Lord Protector from 1653 until his death in 1658, one of the most controversial figures in our national history. Born

into what he described as 'obscurity' in Huntingdon in 1599 he became drawn into politics first as MP for Huntingdon and in 1640 for Cambridge. Most historians now agree that his own sense of religious conviction drove him to take an active part in parliament's conflict with the monarchy that ultimately led to the trial and execution of King Charles 1st in 1649. His elevation to the role of Lord Protector, the head of state, followed a bitter campaign in Ireland and victory over the Scots and over an army led by Charles Stuart on 3rd September 1651. Cromwell considered 3rd September a date of great significance to him, and so it proved with his death at Whitehall on the afternoon of 3rd Sept. 1658.

The service, open to all faiths or none,



was a simple act of Christian worship, and was conducted by the Rev Dr Tim Woolley, and the address was given by Dr David L Smith.

Pictured left to right are: St Ives Mayor, Pasco Hussain, Cromwell Association President, Dr Ismini Pells, and Dr David Smith.

A Giant Mandala under the bandstand

Last Sunday our already beautiful and sparkling bandstand had an exciting day of a makeover.

A new initiative in town, called Opening Circles (organised and hosted by Gilly James and Agi Peach), invited participants to build a giant mandala from natural materials on a circular sheet under the bandstand. Mandalas (Sanskrit word for circles) are colourful designs of symmetrical shapes and patterns created as a tool for meditation. Rather than the end result, the joy of creation is what's truly important. Next to the giant mandala under the bandstand - that even had its posts decorated with beautiful leaves, grasses and berries - participants also made smaller mandalas individually or in small groups.



Continuing Learning for Adults in St Ives ("CLASI")

We are a group of between 30 and 40 people who meet in the **Methodist Church Hall** on The Waits, St Ives on a Thursday.

Our courses start at **10.30am** and finish at **12.15pm**

The next course starts on:

Thursday 19th September 2024

and is a ten-week course on

POST WORLD WAR 1945-1973 by **Stephen Corley**

Learn more about three of the main themes that shaped the modern world - the Cold War, the Middle East Conflict and the end of the European Empires.

The cost of the 10 week course is £50. Tea, coffee and cake are available, for which we make a contribution.

Contact Peter for more information.

peter.german@ntlworld.com

07980 864 543

Dismay over Ivo 6th Form

In March the Ivo school issued a newsletter stating which A level subjects were 'at risk' of not running due to a low uptake, after the Year 11 students had already taken their options. The list included Computer science, Design and technology, Drama, Ethics, Food, Further mathematics, French, German, Health and social care, Media studies, Music and Vocational sport.

With the new term having begun, concern has been raised by the low numbers of the Ivo 6th form, now below 50, as pupils have moved away to other schools in order to do the subjects they couldn't get in St Ives. With modern languages, music or drama (once a subject the Ivo excelled at) unavailable it isn't surprising that students are choosing to go to Hinchbrooke, Swavesey and Hills Road in Cambridge instead.

Hinchbrooke school has over 230 pupils in its 6th form and the range of subjects is vast by comparison. Although not every subject has high numbers attending, the less popular subjects are effectively subsidised by those courses that are well subscribed. Something that is possible with a large 6th Form and is desirable for the school's budget.

Parents of St Ivo pupils, which is part of the Astrea Academy Trust, have been raising concerns over issues for quite a while, particularly about bullying. Along with other Astrea Academies in St Neots these concerns have been picked up by local politicians. There is no doubt that these Academies have not proven to be the panacea for education that government wanted.

It would appear that the Ivo 6th form may not be sustainable with these low numbers and without a decent 6th form and ongoing issues around lack of teachers in some subjects, parents may choose to send their children elsewhere after junior school, further affecting the schools viability.

One knock-on effect of the exodus of pupils from St Ives is that the Stagecoach buses are under a lot of pressure with all the extra students going to Huntingdon or Cambridge. This week the buses have been horrendous, with cancellations and overcrowding.

This week the headteacher, Tony Meneagh, who was appointed in July, suggested in the Cambridge News that the scrapping of one word ofsted ratings will mean parents are likely to be more informed about schools. This seems somewhat ironic bearing in mind that many parents have found it hard to get information from the school and have often had to resort to making a one word comment about the Ivo!



(Image St Ivo Academy)

Besides creating with the wonderful gifts of nature that participants brought along to contribute, people also shared food and songs as they spent a few hours together enjoying a beautiful day of leaving all else behind, for a little while.

Opening Circles are planning to host a sequence of such events to bring people together, engaging in stress-free, playful and joyous creative activities. The next event is planned for 26 October in the Norris Museum. Details will be available shortly on various platforms.

You can follow the upcoming events here:

<https://www.facebook.com/OpeningCircles>



Erik loves Jazz & Blues.



having your say ...

Get it off your chest,
email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

OTHER NEWS

Concern about speeding on The Waits

Following the crash by a taxi at the junction of Ramsey Road and The Waits (RP166), residents made representation to the Town Council and the topic of Local Highway Improvement schemes was to be discussed at Wednesday's full council meeting. *The Riverporter* contacted the police to ask why they did not attend the accident involving a taxi that could have resulted in serious injury. They told us: *The vast majority of collisions that occur in the UK do so because someone has driven without due care and attention. This does not mean the Constabulary will investigate every single damage only collision to pursue an investigation into driving without due care and attention. It is neither a proportionate nor pragmatic response to such low-level incidents. The constabulary was provided with video footage of the scene and it is not indicative of a high-speed collision. Other processes exist to report damage to roadside furniture belonging to the council and to report concerns relating to taxi drivers' conduct etc. These do not need to be initiated by police.*



The image right is a still from the video and clearly identifies the taxi and driver and the damage to the front wing. In the video you can see numerous pedestrians on the corner, a workman high up on scaffolding, who was very scared due to the proximity of the crash and a woman being pushed by her nurse in a wheelchair shortly after. So it was very lucky that no one was injured. *The Riverporter* also contacted HDC Licensing to see if they knew of the incident but they couldn't say if they did.

More poor parking

Whilst out on patrols in the town, police were approached by multiple members of the public about an obstruction on The Broadway. *'Officers issued a fixed penalty notice to the vehicle after assisting the lorry driver to pass the roundabout and allow traffic to get through,'* said police. *'Hopefully the owner of this vehicle won't be parking on anymore roundabouts any time soon!'*



More parking spaces

Following feedback from local Councillors and residents, the currently closed section of the Park and Ride car park has reopened. Electric charging facilities are expected to be available from November. The energy generated will power the site, the electric vehicle charging points and will feed into the local grid, as well as providing power to a local customer. Costing £5.6 million it was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund before the EU-exit agreement and is expected to create revenue for the County Council to help fund its services. CCTV has been put in place, which can view all areas under the canopies, to discourage anti-social behaviour. Chair of the Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee, Councillor Lorna Dupre said: *'We'd like to thank local people for their understanding whilst works have been ongoing and the amount of space for parking has been reduced.'*



Town Councillor vacancy in West Ward

Town Councillor Chris Morgan has resigned due to health reasons and unless an election is called by 23rd September the Council will seek to adopt a new member.

Dear Erik,
St Ives Poetry & Folk Club
We meet on the SECOND TUESDAY of every month at 7.30 - 9.45 in the Café in the Corn Exchange. Original poems by attendees can be read out to an appreciative audience. Original songs can be performed too. Traditional folk songs also feature, sung a Capella, in the original way, as storytelling. It would be great to see new faces and hear new voices. Poetry and Song probably date back to the earliest days of human communication (as do some of our poets) and both deserve to be celebrated and encouraged. A Poem is attached (right).

Riverport Rag
Our riverport has a pretty quay
A minor one, apparently,
Compared to others you might see.
Yet once a year the sleepy streets
Will throb and thrum with pulsing beats
A smorgasbord of music treats
With razzle dazzle and pizzazz
A festival of Blues and Jazz
Fills sleepy autumn afternoons
With melodies And modal tunes
We who reside in this river port town
Will live it up with our hair down
Bars and pubs and clubs for miles
Have bands and beats and hugs and smiles
Blue nights of Toe tapping
Bright lights and
Finger snapping
Even the river seems to croon
To the shining silver harvest moon
Jazz and Blues
A Jamboree and
Slepe by the Ouse
The place to be
Happy and glad
We all agree
It's not too bad
For a minor quay.

Confused? You will be here

Visitors may have been forgiven for parking illegally when seeing the 'Out of Order' sign on the meter (left). Looking around for the 'Other Machine' they would have seen this.



Dear Erik
Anyone who went to the Dobbies garden centre on Thursday or Friday last week may have been surprised to see a large group of older people, mainly in their 80's and 90's having great fun on the Aztec mini golf course. The trips were made possible by a very kind donation from somebody who wishes to remain anonymous and our wonderful volunteers.



We had a great time and would love to say thank you. **Gill**

St Ives Regeneration Forum (FoRSIT) does survey

Fourteen of the eighteen businesses in Bridge Street have been questioned about how to make improvements to the town and for traders. While the results are now being analysed and proposals thought through, the survey did highlight several issues. Not surprisingly sorting out parking and more and better shops were key suggestions. Improved signage and pedestrianisation were also high on the list.

FoRSIT hope to come up with some ideas that can be put in place quickly. Others, such as the potential use of the Octagon and street improvements will take time to come to fruition as the group work with local authorities in the hope of making real changes to increase footfall and reduce the number of vacant shops. Anyone interested in contributing to this work should contact Christine Phillpotts at chair@stivescivic.org.uk.

Other snippets of news

Travellers camped on Slepe Hall field
Though the police visited the travellers and were assured that they would be moving on before Monday, the Town Council, who own the field, instructed bailiffs to serve notice on them so they could be evicted if needed. In the event the travellers left on Friday evening.
County plead guilty
Cambridgeshire CC admitted liability for three fatalities on the Guided Busway and are pleading guilty to two offences, which the HSE are prosecuting the Council for.
Nursery Update
Stepping Stones Nursery has decided to close when their tenancy ends on 1st November. Despite efforts from HDC and Cambs CC to find

alternative accomodation it has proved fruitless in the time available. Tiffany the owner of the business is still hoping to open again, if suitable premises can be found.
Rubbish removed
Following complaints from several people the large pile of rubbish behind the Golden Lion (right) has been removed.
Chapel to open for Saturday
Despite being told several times that the Bridge Chapel would remain closed for Heritage Open Weekend we can now say it will be open, although the Myke Clifford Quartet due to play there will now perform in the Golden Lion Hotel at noon on Saturday.



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Peterborough PE1 5UA. Tel: 01733 344344



One Life
Thursday 3 October 2024 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: James Hawes, 105m, Cert: 12
Synopsis: Based on the true story of British humanitarian Nicholas "Nicky" Winton, the film alternates between following Anthony Hopkins as a 79-year old Winton reminiscing on his past, and Johnny Flynn as a 29-year old Winton attempting to help groups of Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39, just before the beginning of World War II. Fifty years later, he's still haunted by the fate of those he wasn't able to bring to safety.

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange



St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS

PASSENGER TRIPS FROM THE QUAY

Houghton Mill Trip

Join us for a wonderful boat trip along The River Great Ouse followed by a tour of Houghton Mill. The trip will leave St Ives Quay every Wednesday, heading under St Ives Bridge towards Houghton via Hemingford Lock.

The trip includes a tour of Houghton Mill which will be led by one of their guides, returning to the quay at the end of the day.

This trip is run in conjunction with the National Trust and is proving popular for everyone. National Trust members look for member prices.

Please contact us for details.



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HEMINGFORD LADIES CHOIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Sunday 27th October at 2.30pm

St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots - with refreshments and retiring collection

We'd love you to help us celebrate.



ST IVES - The Burleigh Hill Centre, PE27 3ER

TUESDAYS at 9.30 am with Kathie

THURSDAYS at 5.30 pm with Vikki

FRIDAYS 9.30 am with Kathie

SATURDAYS at 8.00 am & 9.30 am with Kathie

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THE COURTYARD, a hidden gem in the heart of St Ives.

An eclectic mix of traders and pods. Situated between St Ives Bus Station and Hyperion Auctions on Station Road.



Step into our unique courtyard, where vibrant traders and eclectic pods offer one-of-a-kind treasures.

Explore a charming array of hand-crafted goods, rare finds, and artisanal delights – all from passionate vendors eager to share their stories.

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Whilst you are browsing enjoy a cup of freshly made coffee and a tasty bacon roll from Kate's Coffee Pod.

Open 7 days a week Monday to Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4.

Here at The Courtyard, we feel incredibly proud of our work and supportive local community.

Thank you so much to you all for your kind words and continued support.